

# MARCH 2024



## A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

*Written by Rev. Chris Pennington*

Will there be a blast of snow before winter gives up its hold on the region? I, as some of you may know, am very happy to see several inches or more fall. I never get the feeling that we have had winter if there is not at least one storm that covers everything over with snow. Christy laughs at me when I don't consider it a proper snow if the tips of the grass are still showing. I know I would have difficulty living in Florida or some other non-snowy state. I am a winter person. This is not to say that I don't like the other seasons. I am always delighted to see the flowers bursting from the ground around the church and at home. It amazes me that bulbs can lie dormant for the entire winter and then, by some miracle, know when to spring up. They get taller by the day and soon these new sprouts will have buds that will form the beautiful flowers that we enjoy so much.

What is hidden dormant within you that can spring forth this season and become a beautiful thing? Unlike flowers, we have to give these hidden treasures a nudge sometimes. In Corinthians, Paul tells us that anyone who is in Christ is a new creation - just like the flowers that appear in the springtime. I encourage you during this season of Lent to gaze hard into deep recesses of your soul and gently nudge something within you to burst up through the ground of your life. Embrace the uncertainty of trying something new! Try something different in your spiritual life. If you're accustomed to praying on a regular basis and don't do too much studying of the Bible, add that in. Take a step out of your normal comfort zone and that might provide the impetus for your flowers—your hidden treasures— to grow.

Ash Wednesday was February 14, but there's still plenty of opportunities to worship in this Lenten season and I hope you will join me in inviting God into our lives as we continue to celebrate and commit to the life of Jesus Christ. That said, I'm asking each of you to put on your calendar our shared Good Friday service on March 29 at noon at Penial UMC. I'm even boldly asking you to potentially say, "No" to something else in order to be with your church family that day. I know lots of things pull at you and grab for your attention but our spiritual journey is vitally important. This service will help complete the picture that began on Ash Wednesday and culminate with our Easter celebration on Sunday March 31 at 10:30am. Easter will mean so much more to you as you deepen your faith walk and understanding of the life, death and resurrection of our Lord.

Grace and peace to you and a most Happy Easter!  
Pastor Chris

*The purpose of Richardson Park United Methodist Church is to help people experience the amazing love of God and develop a vital relationship with Jesus Christ.*



United  
Women  
in Faith

## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

BY MARLENE JOHNSON

We are now in the season of Lent. It's a time of reflection for many of us as we recall Jesus living throughout this season so many, many years ago.

Our sisters of faith met on February 11th following the worship service. I am continually amazed with the love for other folks that these women share. They help fill the containers for St. Matthews' Food Pantry, contribute children's books that are distributed each week and bring winter clothing to folks in need. These are only a few of the things this group of dedicated women do. Now, there are many activities for you to attend during March.

- 1) March 3: Health kit assembly
- 2) March 10: Women of Faith and monthly canned food for St. Matthews
- 3) March 10: Filling bags for the children's Easter egg hunt
- 4) March 23: Assisting in the children's Easter Fun
- 5) March 24: Palm Sunday Service
- 6) March 31: Easter worship

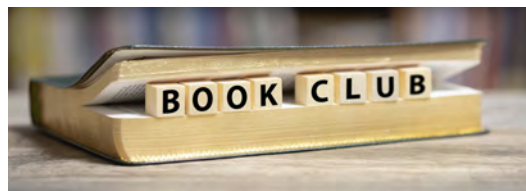
I hope to see you at some of these activities.

Now, my sisters in Faith:

1. Attend our meeting on March 10th
2. Help at one of the events listed, if possible
3. Read: 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Prayer: May our efforts today be inspired by your hard work- Amen

Blessings from Marlene



## BOOK CLUB

BY PAUL WEAVER

Our February meeting was held on Friday, February 9th at 1 pm at the church. We discussed "The Neighbor's Secret" by L. Alison Heller.

Our March meeting will be on Friday, March 8th at 2 pm at the church. We will discuss "Seventy Times Seven" by Alex Mar.

We received our books from New Castle Reads, "The Violin Conspiracy" by Brendan Slocumb. This is the book we will discuss at our April meeting on Friday, April 12th at 2 pm at the church. We will attend the event with the author on April 30, 2024 at 7 pm at the Chase Center. We will meet for dinner before the event.

Coming attractions include "I Know Who You Are" by Barbara Rae-Venter, "The Senator's Wife", by Liv Constantine, "The Guest List" by Lucy Foley. And if you would like to join us and have a book to share with the club, please let me know. A number of our recent books have come from your suggestions, please keep those coming!

Thanks, Paul



## THE CHILDREN'S CORNER

BY MARLENE JOHNSON

Calling all children ages 4-12! We want to share the love Jesus gives us with you. We meet on Sunday mornings in the back of the sanctuary and proceed upstairs as a group. I don't want you to miss our many activities. We sing, do role plays of the weekly Bible stories, visit the discovery center, share something exciting that happened to you during the week and learn a special echo prayer. Don't miss these special activities which help us learn about Jesus!

Looking forward to visiting with you on Sunday mornings - Ms. Marlene



## TECHNOLOGY TIPS

BY JIM CHILCUTT

Years ago, I read a book titled "The Assault on Privacy". It has long since gone out of print, but the message is still relevant. The book was recommended to me but with a warning that if I read the book, I would never want to provide personal information again. Naturally, I did not believe it, so I ordered a copy and read it. The warning was grossly understated.

The book was well researched and eye opening. Here is why.

The book discusses what happens to your information once you hand it over. It's a commodity which can be bought and sold. Examples of collectors are Google, Amazon, Facebook, numerous government agencies, and social media systems. Google tracks your movements and classifies the sites you visit. Amazon can track your interests through what you read, watch, and buy. What you buy, where you go, when you go, your likes and dislikes are all stored in a database and traded on the open market.

Keep these things in mind the next time you give out personal information. Protect your privacy.

If you have any questions or suggestions send an email to [rpumc@rpumchurch.org](mailto:rpumc@rpumchurch.org) or call the church office.



## FLOWER CONTAINERS NEEDED

We love delivering altar flowers to shut-ins and they love the visit **BUT** we are in need of containers. I have found the 1 lb. metal coffee cans do work very well. Please donate these so we can continue this wonderful program. Blessings from Marlene



## MEMORIAL TREE

BY GLENDA DONNELLY

Thanks to the great work of the Trustees and the BMG, we have a beautiful Memorial Tree to recognize all our loved families and friends who have passed.

Take a moment and stop by the Extension and see the Memorial Tree. If you are interested in adding a loved one's name to the Memorial Tree, there are forms located on the table near the Tree. Any questions, please contact Glenda Donnelly at (302) 998-5047 or call the Church Office. Thank you. Glenda

## BAGS OF BLESSINGS

### DONATIONS NEEDED

Please donate "single-served" food items such as granola bars, fruit cups, pudding cups, 16 oz. water bottles, snack crackers, cookies, peanut butter, etc. in support of this important adjunct ministry to our Free Lunch program. Volunteers are needed to fill the Bags of Blessings which are given out at the Free Lunch Ministry on Thursdays. Any questions, please contact Kathy Rogers, Missions Chair

## FREE LUNCH MINISTRY

BY JOE TUCKER

Free Lunch program is continuing every Thursday 11:30 am to 12:30 pm with a grab-n-go lunch. We deliver a hot lunch in a take-out container at the main door of the church. Each person also receives a bag of crackers, power bars, a bottle of water, cup of pudding, etc. Our group of dedicated volunteers work Wednesday morning preparing food and 'bags of blessings' to hand out on Thursday morning. We are averaging about 100 meals a week. Contributions of items are always accepted. Currently, Free Lunch is in need of **plastic grocery shopping bags** at this time.

Some church members pick up meals and deliver them to family and elderly neighbors. Thank you to all volunteers who help on Wednesday and Thursday to prepare and serve free lunch!! Thank you. Joe






## ONLINE GIVING - TITHES & OFFERINGS

ONLINE GIVING NOW AVAILABLE

Hello RPUMC Family!

We are pleased to announce that ONLINE GIVING is NOW Available! During this time of social distancing and quarantine, you can still support the work and ministry of Richardson Park UMC through your tithes and offerings by either sending them in the mail or now by giving online through our website!

(Click the "GIVING" tab on our website).

 [www.rpumchurch.org/html/giving.html](http://www.rpumchurch.org/html/giving.html)



## New Women's Al-Alon Meeting

Women's Al-Anon Family Group is an open meeting available to all women on Thursday evenings from 6:30-7:30 pm at Ebenezer United Methodist Church, 525 Polly Drummond Hill Road, Newark, DE 19711. Please use the main front entrance of the church.

The Al-Anon Family Groups are a fellowship of relative and friends of alcoholics who share experience, strength and hope in order to solve their common problems.

If you have any questions please call 302-731-9495, Ext. 10.

## Peniel Soup Kitchen 10:30 to 12:30—Every Friday

Pick Up Free Lunch—Goodie Bag For All

Looking forward to seeing all of our friends again.  
Please come everyone.



### ALTAR FLOWER ORDERS

Please remember that if you would like to dedicate altar flowers "In Honor of" or "In Loving Memory of" a loved one, please submit your order and donation to the church office at least one week before.

Thank you.



## The Shoppe at RPUMC

The Shoppe at RPUMC will reopen for shopping on Thursdays from 11 am-2 pm on January 18, 2024





PENIEL UMC CHURCH

# Soup Kitchen



OPEN EVERY FRIDAY  
FROM 10AM to 12PM

OPEN TO ANYONE WHO WANTS  
A HOT MEAL

115 E Market St, Newport, DE 19804



Bishop LaTrelle Easterling continues  
her podcast. **Thursdays at the Table**

Asking good questions, engaging in deep  
conversation and telling the whole truth  
can change the world.

In her podcast Bishop LaTrelle Easterling  
invites you to join her for Thursdays at the  
Table as she is joined by leaders from across the connection, serving up new  
insights and interesting ways of experiencing our lives together.

You can join at 8 a.m. or listen any time on:  
Spotify, Apple Podcasts or at  
[pdcbbc.org/thursdays-at-the-table.html](http://pdcbbc.org/thursdays-at-the-table.html)



MT. SALEM UMC AND  
FOOD BANK OF DELAWARE

## Food Distribution

SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2024

11AM-1PM

Mt. Salem in Rockford Park  
2629 West 19th Street  
Wilmington, Delaware 19806



### ALTAR FLOWERS

March 3-Tony & Glenda Donnelly  
March 10-Fran Tebbutt  
March 17-Janis Williams  
March 24-Ruth Phillips  
March 31 - Easter Sunday Lilies

LAY READERS-To be announced

### The Bulletin

A newsletter published by Bishop LaTrelle Easterling is a reproducible resource for local churches. In the most recent issue, Bishop LaTrelle Easterling offers a word of gratitude for the United Methodists serving faithfully in a vast array of mission and ministry. "It is a privilege to serve in ministry with you as we share the love of God and bring hope to our communities," she writes. "Because you rise every morning and say, 'Yes!' to discipleship, seeds are being planted, challenges are being met and lives are being transformed."

You can view The Bulletin at: [www.pdcbbc.org/the-bulletin](http://www.pdcbbc.org/the-bulletin)

## FREE BREAD

Thursday 9:00am -  
12:30pm

Friday 9:00am -  
12:30pm

Sunday 11:15 am -  
12:30 pm

PENIEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
115 E. MARKET STREET NEWPORT, DE 19804





## HYGIENE KIT ASSEMBLY MISSION PROJECT

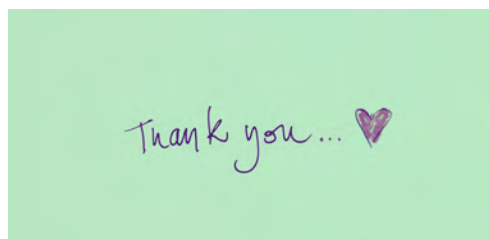
BY KATHY ROGERS

The RPUMC Koinonia Fellowship Missions Team will be hosting a mission project on Sunday, 3/3/24, directly after worship service. The project involves the preparation of 150 Hygiene Kits. The kits are made up of basic health care products as outlined by UMCOR (United Methodist Committee On Relief). An assembly line will be set up in the Fellowship Hall so that it will be a quick and easy process and all who would like to participate, adults and children, are welcome to join in!

The kits will be distributed through UMCOR and other local non-profit organizations to help those in need of these important and necessary self-care items.

Please consider contributing your time to this project, either for the setup on Saturday (3/2/24 at 10 am) or the assembly on Sunday 3/3/24 at 11:45 am), as this is an excellent way to be in service to others and live into the teachings of Jesus. Monetary donations are also graciously accepted to offset the cost of the supplies and contribute to future missions' projects.

Please contact the church office or contact Kathy Rogers if you plan to help with this project in some way and Thank you in advance for your consideration! Above all, may God bless those who will receive one of these kits, bless those who will prepare the kits and help us to always remember that To God Be the Glory now and forever! AMEN



Joe and I wanted to thank everyone who got us where we needed and wanted to be when we were both unable to drive. God bless you all!  
Blessings, Brenda Tucker



## SCOUTS

BY KATIE KLINGER

In January the troop competed at camp Rodney at the yearly Klondike Derby. Between summer camp and merit Badge College the boys have earned 67 merit badges and there were 6 rank advancements. Congratulations to all the boys that advanced. In March the boys will be camping at a local State Park.

We started the month of February off with a wonderful Scout Sunday where we celebrate the birthday of scouting as well as celebrate the arrow of light scouts moving from the Cub Pack to the Troop. There were 4 scouts that advanced to the troop this year. The Cub Scouts are gearing up for their Pinewood Derby this month which will take place on March 16th in Fellowship Hall.



### WHY DO WE CELEBRATE SPECIAL SUNDAYS?

United Methodists celebrate on specific days to unite and make clear the commitment of the church as the people of God, and to give everyone the opportunity to contribute to special programs approved and supported by the Church. For stories on how you make a difference visit [UMC.org/yourimpact](https://umc.org/yourimpact)

### HOW DO YOUR GIFTS SUPPORT UMCOR?

As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to respond with extravagant grace. Through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), we are able to make a difference in the lives of communities and individuals whose lives have been upset by storms, wars, fires, displacement and climate change. This offering underwrites UMCOR's "costs of doing business," allowing UMCOR to keep the promise that 100% of any gift to a specific UMCOR project will go toward that project, not administrative costs.



Thank you for the \$200. from the Missions fund for the help with rent. The assistance is very much appreciated. May God bless you and the entire church body! Thanks again! Jason and Shannon

# March Birthdays

Jennifer Boyce	March 3
Morgan Straughn	March 5
Beth Warfel	March 5
Paul McGinnes, Jr.	March 6
Ryan Warfel	March 6
Janet Dickerson	March 7
Steven Palmer	March 7
Stephanie Swain	March 7
Kim Cloud	March 10
John DuVall	March 10
Madison Keffer	March 10
David Rogers	March 12



Dennis Daniels	March 15
Susan Eveland	March 15
Don Painter	March 15
Kevin Cecelia	March 16
James Chilcutt	March 18
Jackson Beane	March 19
Tom Beane	March 22
Michael Coverdale	March 23
Austin Painter	March 23
James Keffer	March 24
Sue Cummings	March 25

Note: If your name is not listed on our birthday list, please call the church office

Sunday, March 24th at 10:30 am



Please join us as we wave Palms and remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Service can be attended in-person or may viewed online broadcasting Live.



**Good Friday**

cluster  
Worship Service  
with Peniel UMC

March 29th at 12 pm  
at Peniel UMC



**Easter Sunday  
Service**

**March 31st**

**at 10:30 am**



Come on out and celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ with your family at Richardson Park UMC.

**PAPER  
Shredding**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 2024  
8AM-2PM**

**MT. SALEM IN ROCKFORD PARK  
2629 WEST 19TH STREET  
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE 19806**





# MARCH 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> <b>CLOSED</b> First Saturdays' – The Shoppe & Annex at RPUMC
<b>3 FH RESERVED</b> 9AM Adult Sunday School 10:30AM Worship & Children's Church 11:45AM Missions Hygiene Kit Assembly – FH	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 11AM Lenten Bible Study – Lounge	<b>6</b> 6:30 PM Scouts Board Mtg. – Lounge	<b>7</b> 9AM BMG – EXT. 11AM–2PM -The Shoppe at RPUMC 11:30AM–12:30PM -Free Lunch – FH	<b>8</b> 2PM Book Club – Lounge	<b>9</b>
<b>10 UMCOR SUNDAY DAYLIGHT SAVINGS</b> 9AM Adult Sunday School 10:30AM Worship & Children's Church 11:30AM UWIF Mtg. – Ext	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 11AM Lenten Bible Study – Lounge	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 9AM BMG – EXT. 11AM–2PM -The Shoppe at RPUMC 11:30AM–12:30PM -Free Lunch – FH	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 11AM – Koinonia Mtg. – Ext.
<b>17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY</b> 9AM Adult Sunday School 10:30AM Worship & Children's Church 11:30AM – Trustee Mtg. – Lounge 11:45AM Parsonage Yard Clean up Day	<b>18</b>	<b>19 FIRST DAY OF SPRING</b> 11AM Lenten Bible Study – Lounge  <b>Messenger Deadline Articles Due</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 9AM BMG – EXT. 11AM–2PM -The Shoppe at RPUMC 11:30AM–12:30PM -Free Lunch – FH	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 1-4PM Easter EGGStravaganza 
<b>24 PALM SUNDAY</b> 9AM Adult Sunday School 10:30AM Worship & Children's Church	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 11AM Lenten Bible Study – Lounge	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 9AM BMG – EXT. 11AM–2PM -The Shoppe at RPUMC 11:30AM–12:30PM -Free Lunch – FH	<b>29 GOOD FRIDAY</b> 12PM Good Friday Service at Peniel UMC 	<b>30</b>
<b>31 EASTER SUNDAY</b> 9AM Adult Sunday School 10:30AM Worship & Children's Church						

The Shoppe at RPUMC, Parsonage and Annex will be OPEN for shopping on Thursdays' from 11AM–2PM.

**COME ON OUT & SHOP AT**  
**THE SHOPPE AT RPUMC**  
**on Thursdays 11 AM-2 PM**  
**PRE-LOVED GOODS**  
**DISCOVER GREAT FINDS**



Thank you for supporting the mission.



@rpumchurch.org  
 proceeds benefit  
 missions/outreach





## ALTAR EASTER LILIES



If you would like to place a lily on the Altar for Easter, please return this form to the church office by Sunday, March 17th. Cost of each plant is \$9.00. Please make your check payable to Richardson Park United Methodist Church and mark "Easter Lilies" in the memo. Thank you.

Number of Plants \_\_\_\_\_ x \$9.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Donor's Name \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_  
(for those not living) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_  
(for those living) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In Memory and Honor of \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Check/Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Shall we deliver your flower to a Church Shut-In? YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

Please arrange to pick up your flowers immediately after the Easter worship service if they are not being delivered to a shut-in  
Thank you.





*The Messenger*



March 2024



## RICHARDSON PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

11 NORTH MARYLAND AVENUE  
WILMINGTON, DE 19804-1305  
Office: (302) 654-0961  
E-Mail: [rpumc@rpumchurch.org](mailto:rpumc@rpumchurch.org)  
Website: [www.rpumchurch.org](http://www.rpumchurch.org)

Rev. J. Christopher Pennington  
Cell Phone (302) 229-5626  
E-Mail: [pastorchris@rpumchurch.org](mailto:pastorchris@rpumchurch.org)  
Office Hours: 9 a.m.-3 p.m. M-F  
Administrative Assistant: Jennifer Boyce

Happy  
Easter



In-Person and **Live Streaming** Sunday Worship Services  
at the following sites:

[rpumchurch.org/html/streaming\\_service.html](http://rpumchurch.org/html/streaming_service.html) or  
Facebook at: [facebook.com/rpumchurch](https://facebook.com/rpumchurch)

Sunday School.....9:00 A.M.  
Fellowship Time.....9:40 A.M.  
Worship & Children's Church.....10:30 A.M.



March 29th



The Church Office  
will be closed on  
Friday, March 29th

Please have articles and information for the April  
Messenger to the Church Office by Tuesday, March 19th.  
Remember to submit all announcements for the Sunday  
Bulletin no later than Wednesday. Email to:  
[rpumc@rpumchurch.org](mailto:rpumc@rpumchurch.org)  
Thank you! ~Jen

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the amazing love of God and develop a vital relationship with Jesus Christ.*